

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 21, 24, 25, 31, and 32 are pending. Claim 17 has been amended. Claims 18, 21, 24, 25, and 31 have been previously presented. Claim 32 is new. Claims 19, 20, 22, 23, and 26-30 have been withdrawn. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) And 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 17-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Tsuda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,097,458), or over Hayashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,204,903), or over Yamanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,452,653). Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hayashi. Claims 17, 21, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sasaki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,130,736) in view of Tsuda, or over Sasaki in view of Hayashi, or over Sasaki in view of Yamanaka. Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tsuda in view of Hayashi, or over Yamanaka in view of Hayashi. Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tsuda in view of Masaaki (JP 11-348117), or over Hayashi in view of Masaaki, or over Yamanaka in view of Masaaki. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following remarks.

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The present application, filed September 23, 2003, is a divisional of U.S. Ser. No. 09/896,165 (now U.S. Pat. No. 6,750,930), filed June 29, 2001, which claims priority to JP 2000-201530 and JP 2000-201529, both of which were filed July 3, 2000. Accordingly, the effective filing date of the present invention is at least June 29, 2001. Tsuda issues August 1, 2000, filed December 11, 1996. Hayashi issues

March 20, 2001, with a §371 date of January 28, 1998. Yamanaka issues September 17, 2002, filed July 19, 2000. Neither of Tsuda, Hayashi, and Yamanaka qualifies as prior art under § 102(b) because none of the issue dates of these three references is more than 1 year prior to the effective filing date of the present application. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections against claims 17, 18, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Tsuda, Hayashi, and Yamanaka are improper and should be withdrawn¹.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has conceded that Sasaki fails to teach the reflector with feature in claim 17 (Office Action, pages 7, 8, and 10). The Examiner nevertheless attempts to cure this deficiency of Sasaki by asserting that Tsuda, Hayashi, or Yamanaka teaches the reflector with feature in claim 17 (Office Action, pages 7, 8, and 10). Tsuda, Hayashi, and Yamanaka disclose reflectors with light reflective concave portions (see Office Action, pages 2-5). None of Tsuda, Hayashi, and Yamanaka, however, teaches or suggests that each of the light reflective concave portions has a concave shape in cross section, with two curves having different maximum inclination angles (see Figs 9-14 in Tsuda; Fig. 4 in Hayashi; and Figs 8-18 in Yamanaka).

In contrast, the liquid crystal display device as recited in amended independent claim 17 comprises a reflector having a plurality of light reflective concave portions arranged randomly adjacent to each other on a surface of a base material, wherein each of the light reflective concave portions has a concave shape in cross section, the concave shape having a first curve and a second curve, the first curve having the

¹ In any event, neither Tsuda, Hayashi, or Yamanaka teaches or suggests all the claim limitations as recited in amended independent claim 17. See discussion in section 1B.

maximum inclination angle and including one side portion, the first curve and the second curve being concave arcs, and wherein the average of the absolute value of an inclination angle of the first curve is larger than the average of the absolute value of an inclination angle of the second curve, and reflection property is such that the incident light is reflected by the surface at the second curve so that the direction of reflection is shifted from the direction of regular reflection with respect to the surface of the base material. Support for amended independent claim 17 can be found in the Applicants' specification, for example, in Figs. 8, 9A, and 9B, and in page 26, last paragraph to page 27, last paragraph.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that Sasaki in view of Tsuda, Sasaki in view of Hayashi, or Sasaki in view of Yamanaka do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations as recited in amended independent claim 17. Accordingly, the rejections against amended independent claim 17, and thus the rejections against claims 21, 24, 25, and 31, which all depend from amended independent claim 17, have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

2. New Claim 32

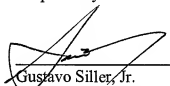
New claim 32 depends from amended independent claim 17, and thus should be allowable as well. Support for new claim 32 can be found in the Applicants' specification, for example, in page 32, first full paragraph.

3. Conclusion

Based on the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. The examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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